

**Groundwater Advisory Committee (GAC)**  
**Meeting Minutes: February 2, 10:00 – 1:00**  
**Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Conference Room G09,**  
**GEF II building, 101 South Webster, Madison**

**Committee members in attendance:** DuWayne Johnsrud, Lawrie Kobza, Andrew Graham, Doug Hahn, Stuart Gross, Keith Meyers, Carol McCartney, David Holdener, Robert Nauta, Dan Duchniak, Jodi Habush Sinykin, Mike Carter, and Todd Ambs.

\*Presentations and other materials referenced in the minutes can be found on the GAC web page:  
<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/dwg/gac/index.htm>

1. **Welcome, Introductions and General Business** – DuWayne Johnsrud welcomed the group and said the other co-chair, Ron Kuehn, could not attend this meeting. Introductions were made. Jill Jonas noted that DNR would have staff on board by the end of February to support groundwater quantity work.
2. **Approval of October Meeting Minutes** – The minutes from the December 2nd meeting were unanimously approved after the date of the next meeting was corrected to April 6th.
3. **South Eastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission's (SEWRPC) Planning Work (see presentation on website)** – After giving an overview of the activities of the water supply planning group at SEWRPC Bob Biebel emphasized that a one-size-fits-all approach would not be an effective strategy. He noted that water conservation measures are very important and needed. However; they should be carefully considered, especially in areas served by large Lake Michigan water plants with excess capacities. He cited some examples where successful conservation efforts could have undesirable side effects ranging from driving out large users (increases rates), reduced revenue streams (for maintenance and repair), and low flows (causing sewer clogging and pump station problems).

Steve Born added three points: 1) there is a need to scale planning appropriately; 2) revenue stream problems are not insurmountable - the energy industry has effectively dealt with them; and 3) there is a need to put institutional arrangements in place in the planning process so that cooperation continues through the implementation phase. Steve emphasized that the third point often determines the success or failure of planning efforts.

4. **Statewide Well Network (see presentation on website)** – Chuck Dunning from the United States Geological Survey (USGS) gave an overview of the USGS/Wisconsin Geological & Natural History Survey (WGNHS) monitoring well network. It currently has 106 wells and is being evaluated for its completeness. The network has been steadily losing wells and is in need of funding and commitment. Mr. Dunning pointed out the noticeable lack of wells around the Groundwater Management Areas and noted that the Groundwater Management Areas (GMAs) were defined by simulations based on very few actual data points. Jim Krohelski stated that when the modeling was done there were four wells in each of the Brown County and SEWRPC areas but now there is only one per area. The USGS and WGNHS are currently estimating costs for updating the network statewide.

Todd Ambs added that implementation of Act 310 will require, in addition to the monitoring well network, a more comprehensive stream gaging network to assess the impacts of high-capacity wells on protected surface waters.

Steve Born suggested that the committee develop specific points on the value of these networks to be communicated to the Legislature. There was consensus that this should be a topic for the next meeting.

5. **Funding from the Groundwater Law** - Jill Jonas reported that well fees had been collected since May of 2005 using the DNR's Online Licensing Center. The system was originally developed for hunting, fishing and other recreational licenses. Now regional Drinking Water and Groundwater staff can use the system to see where wells are likely to be installed. Ms. Jonas summarized the funding as follows:

<b>Fund</b>	<b>2005-06</b>	<b>2006-07</b>
Administration (5 DNR staff, overhead)	\$306,200	\$387,900
Research	\$100,000	\$100,000
Aids/Mitigation	\$593,800	\$512,100
Total (based on # of wells installed)	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000

Unspent research and administration funds will lapse into the Aids/Mitigation fund.

Todd Ambs added that the new staff would work on many tasks including: the rule process, definitions of a spring and significant adverse impact, and the GAC's initiatives.

6. **Groundwater Management Area Subcommittee status report (numerous handouts on website)**

– Lawrie Kobza distributed various task group work products and went through a list of proposed deadlines for output. Todd Ambs commented that although the timeline meets the charge of the legislation several additional steps (e.g. public hearings, Natural Resources Board meetings, and Legislative meetings) will be required before implementation can be realized. The timing of the initial drafts was moved up to allow distribution before the June meeting (Ms. Kobza's updated [timeline](#) is on the GAC website.). A conference call will be set up [March 2, 8:30 a.m.] to make progress on the drafts. [Updates for tasks](#) (A-J) below were given for description of tasks.

- A. John Jansen noted that at the December meeting the "sustainable" goal was chosen by the committee.
- B. Mr. Krohelski has finished his report but still needs to frame recommendations on the monitoring well network.
- C. Jody Habush Sinykin has numerous potential recommendations and is developing supporting materials
- D. Andy Graham reported that some of this group's recommendations may fit better in the document on Task B.
- E. David Denig-Chakroff reported that the group had completed a draft report that he hoped to circulate to the GAC soon.
- F. Dan Duchniak is integrating his group's efforts with Ms. Sinykin's.
- G. Ms. Kobza is just beginning this task
- H. Bob Nauta cited several examples noting that most groundwater management planning is organized by basin. Little information exists on mitigation. Major challenges included how to apply planning to the SEWRPC area and integrate with the rest of the state.
- I. Carol McCartney noted no change.
- J. Stuart Gross noted no change.

Ms. Kobza emphasized that the groups should be steering towards developing recommendations on these topics.

7. **Adjourn** – Mr. Ambs thanked DNR staff including Bill Furbish, Mike Lemcke and Jeff Helmuth for their support to GAC while new positions have been hired. The meeting adjourned at 1:00. The next meeting will be on April 6, 2006, 10 AM - 1 PM, at Boardman Law Firm, Madison (office is located on the Capitol Square) at 1 South Pinckney Street, Fourth floor.